

SYLLABUS

Course Information	INFO105: Info in Action: Finding and Using Scholarly Information (1 credit) Meeting Times & Room: By arrangement Prerequisites: Eligibility for ENG101
Description	Info in Action is an online, self-paced series of five (5) 1-credit courses supporting student research at point of need. These modules support students in acquiring the ability to locate, evaluate, and use needed information. Introduces scholarly communications that form the basis of new information. Covers where these communications are published, how to search periodical databases for scholarly articles, and how to evaluate and cite sources for academic research.
Relation to General Education	This course contributes to information literacy by addressing concepts and skills related to academic research. This course supports academic work and independent and life-long learning.
Course Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore scholarly communication as a source of information for academic research• Understand the ethical and social issues related to scholarly research
Americans with Disability Act	Students with documented disabilities who need course accommodations, have emergency medical information, or require special arrangements for building evacuation should contact the instructor within the first two weeks of class.
Instructor Information	Kelley McHenry, BE2101, 587-6336, kmchenry@sccd.ctc.edu Office Hours by arrangement
Educational Philosophy	<i>"It is very nearly impossible... to become an educated person in a country so distrustful of the independent mind."</i> James Baldwin Good researchers leave no rocks unturned; to become good researchers, we must be aware of all the possibilities. The changing environment of media ownership and information distribution means that instruction in the research process must extend beyond traditional sources and strategies. With growing access to large quantities of information of varied quality, we all need to develop the confidence and skills to harness the power of knowledge.
Student Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distinguish scholarly information from other types of information available for research and identify when it is needed• Identify possible sources of scholarly communication• Apply search strategy to research databases to locate research articles on a specific topic• Use information responsibly by applying sound evaluation criteria and by citing and incorporating sources according to academic convention
Methods of Instruction	Material will be presented through individual meetings with the instructor and online through the Angel classroom software. Because much of the learning is self directed, you will be largely responsible for maintaining momentum in your learning. A critical analysis journal submitted for each unit of instruction will inform your instructor about your individual learning and needs.

Readings

Provided online

Learning Resources

Student Academic Assistance Center (Room BE1106, Phone: 587-3852): offers workshops and tutoring on skills such as note taking and essay writing.

Computer Center (Room BE3148, Phone: 587-4194): visit their web site for detailed information - <http://seattlecentral.org/compcenter>

Library Reference Desk (BE2101, Phone 587-5421): reference librarians are available to provide assistance with library research assignments and citations

Participation

You are responsible for your learning in this course. Although it is an individually paced course, you are required to adhere to the course schedule that you lay out with your instructor during an initial meeting.

Assignments

Expect to spend a total of 11 hours reading class materials and meeting with your instructor. Assignments will require an additional 3-4 hours each. Assignments should be submitted to your instructor via email.

1. Scholarly information analysis (analyze a scholarly source ...?)
2. Database analysis
3. Source List – 4 scholarly journal sources with citations and evaluative annotations
4. Journal

Grading

You will get feedback for assignments listed on the course outline and be graded on your class participation, and the final project. You are responsible to complete assignments, which will be presented in class - and posted on the course Web page - and to make up any missed work. You can access homework assignments via the class web site.

Assignments = 75%

Critical Analysis Journal = 25%

Course Content Outline

1. Scholarly communication defined (includes primary vs. secondary)
2. Types of Information : An Overview
 - a. Scholarly vs. Popular
 - b. Books
 - c. Periodicals (magazines, newspapers, academic journals, professional/trade)
 - d. Unpublished sources
3. Search strategies
 - a. Citation mining
 - b. "Free Web" sources (Google Scholar)
 - c. Database searching
4. Periodical Research
 - a. Where to find periodicals
 - b. Databases – a definition
 - c. Database searching
 - i. Topic development
 - ii. Search strategy
5. Citing and using information
 - a. Ethics of information
 - b. Citation styles
 - c. Evaluation strategies